



S. 1868 – A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes

Floor Situation

S. 1868 is expected to be considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds vote for passage. This legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 24, 2007. It was introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) on the same day.

S. 1868 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 25, 2007.

Summary

S. 1868 extends the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-81) through October 31, 2007; it currently is set to expire on July 31, 2007.

Background

On June 28, 2007, the House passed the First Higher Education Extension Act of 2007 (S.1704) by voice vote. The bill extended the Higher Education Act through July 31, 2007. The President signed this into law on July 3, 2007 (PL 110-44). The House also passed a four-month extension (H.R. 2559) by voice vote on June 6, 2007. H.R. 2559 has not been considered by the Senate.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society domestic agenda. The goal of this Act was "to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education."

The Higher Education Act authorizes the federal government's student aid programs to support postsecondary education attendance. It also authorizes other major programs such as those providing assistance to special groups of Institutions of Higher Education and support services to enable disadvantaged students to complete secondary school and enter and complete college.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was reauthorized in 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992, and 1998. In 2003, many of the programs in the Act were extended through June 30, 2007.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

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